



France – Uzbekistan Business Council of MEDEF International presentation



■ COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Christophe FONTAINE
Chairman, Roxalex

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■ COUNCIL ACTIONS FOR COMPANIES

The France-Uzbekistan Business Council of MEDEF International

began its activities in 1992, following Uzbekistan's independence. Succeeding in 2015 to Mr. Christian MONS, Chairman of GICAT, Mr. Christophe FONTAINE, Chairman of Roxalex, is chairman of the Council.

Echoing the dynamic of openness and economic reforms initiated by the new Uzbek executive at the end of 2016, the Council has decided to amplify and diversify its actions in order to allow the largest number of French companies:

- to assess the new opportunities which the Uzbek market offers,
- to meet new public and private decision-makers competent for their projects,
- and to position themselves on the Uzbek market, in partnership with local companies, or within the framework of tenders.

While relations with the Uzbek authorities in the framework of the Council over the past 20 years have mainly concerned areas of sovereignty and agriculture, the modernization in the main sectors of the economy and the financial sector, as well as the development of infrastructure and public services for the 32 million inhabitants of the country, are opening up a large scale of new business opportunities in Tashkent and the rest of the country.

Since 2016, the Council has strengthened the framework of its action thanks to new cooperation agreements with the Investment Promotion Agency and the Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and closely associates MEDEF International's sectoral task forces to its activities, particularly in the sectors of Sustainable cities, Digital technology, New energies and multilateral financing, a key topic since the greater involvement of multilateral and bilateral financial institutions in the country.

The meetings of the Council, which are held on a regular basis in France, and business delegations to Tashkent and other cities have become through the years a recognized and privileged framework dedicated to French companies operating in Uzbekistan or planning to develop on the market. The Council's activities allow to internationalized large, mid-sized companies and SMEs:

1. to be put in direct, regular and continued contact with:

- the highest Uzbek public authorities, at a national and local level,
- major public or parastatal Uzbek companies,
- local business communities,
- and bilateral or multilateral financial institutions operating in the country ;

2. to gain keys to understanding and in decision making for their activities, mainly related to:

- economic governance evolutions, particularly since the changes that occurred at the top of the State,
- economic reforms and business environment enhancements, roles and positions of new bodies and authorities with economic competence
- monitoring the Government's priority projects and their implementation conditions,
- available sources of funding (domestic or from multilateral and bilateral donors),
- the conditions of exercise and partnership in the country,
- the structuring of industries and business sectors,

3. to increase the sharing of experience between French companies of all sizes, operating in the country or in Central Asia.

→ Reports of business meetings and delegations are available to MEDEF International's members on request.



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